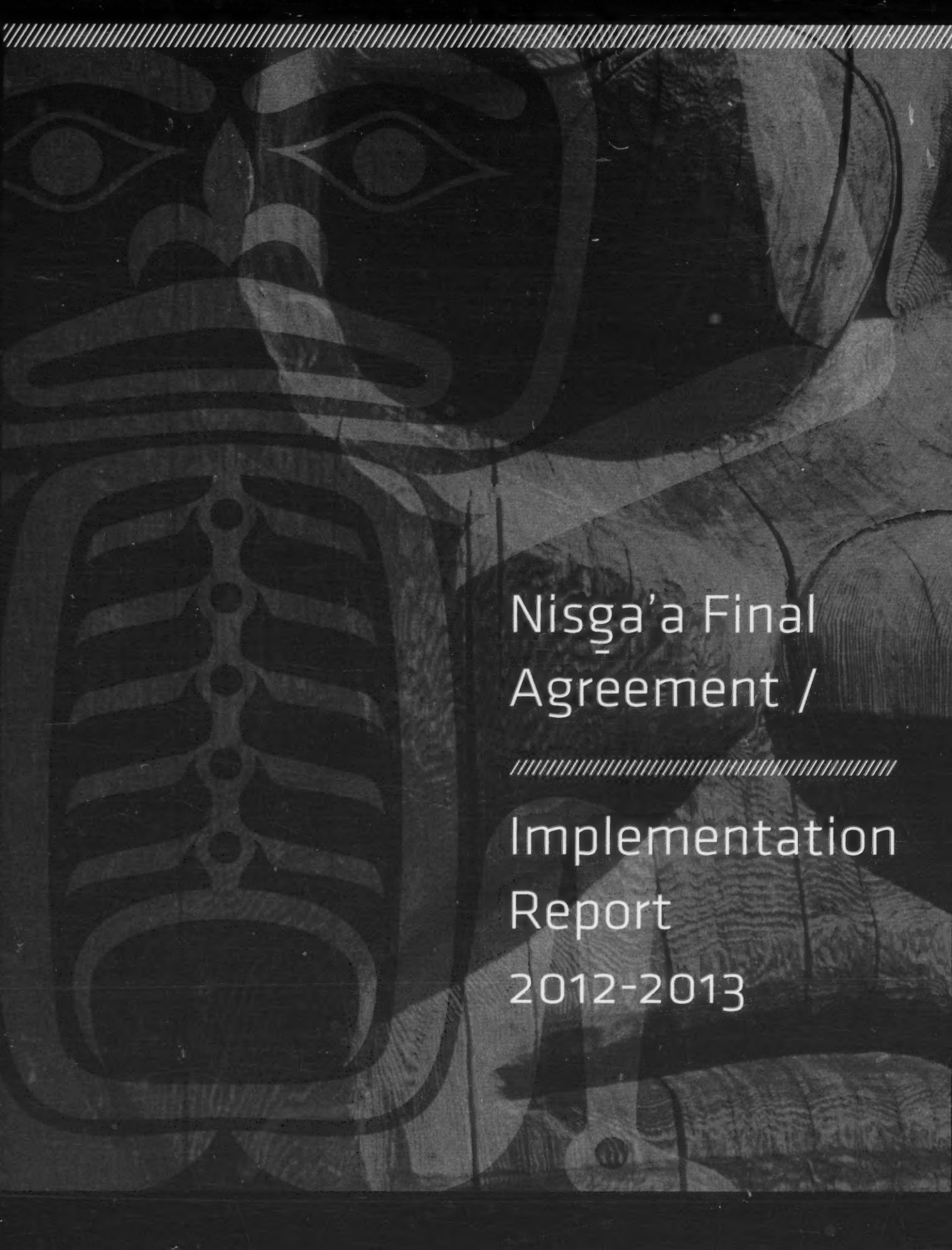


Nisga'a Final Agreement /

Implementation Report 2012-2013

The Nisga'a Final Agreement is British Columbia's first modern treaty. A landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples, the Treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000. The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation are partners in the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), which sets out Nisga'a Lands and the Nisga'a people's right of self-government. Because three governments share responsibility for the Treaty, an implementation committee was formed to provide a forum for the partners to discuss its implementation.

This report summarizes the progress made in the thirteenth year of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

NISG̱A'A N̓UUM̓ — HLI GADIHL K̲'ALII-AKSIM LISIMS /

NISG̱A'A — PEOPLE OF THE NASS RIVER

OUR HOME

K̲'alii-Aksim Lisims (the Nass River) flows through a land of sacred mountains and dense forests on Canada's Pacific Coast. The Nisg̱a'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since before recorded time. Today, the Nisg̱a'a Nation includes more than 6,901 people residing in the Nisg̱a'a Villages of Gin̲golx, Lax̲g̲alts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw, Gitlax̲t'aamiks (formerly New Aiyansh) and beyond the Nass Valley in Terrace, Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Greater Vancouver, and across North America.

OUR TREATY

May 11, 2000, marked the end of a 113-year journey — and the first steps in a new direction. On that date, the Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), the *Indian Act* ceased to apply to Nisga'a people (except for the purpose of determining whether an individual is an "Indian"). The Nisga'a Final Agreement is the first treaty in British Columbia to provide constitutional certainty in respect of an Aboriginal people's Section 35 right to self-government. The Treaty recognizes Nisga'a Lands (2000 km^2) and opens the door for joint economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's natural resources. An example of hope, trust, and cooperation, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is being studied by governments and Aboriginal peoples the world over.

During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Nation successfully defended the Treaty against challenges to its constitutional validity. In October 2011, the British Columbia Supreme Court dismissed the challenge by James Robinson and Mercy Thomas. The British Columbia Supreme Court also ruled that the plaintiffs (and their funders, Calgary-based Canadian Constitution Foundation) must pay two-thirds of the Nisga'a Nation's costs of the proceedings, to date, in the 12-year Robinson Case. Further, the British Columbia Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal by James Robinson and Mercy Thomas, who once again challenged the constitutional validity of the Nisga'a Treaty. The court ruled that, "The Treaty has been carefully crafted to respect constitutional principle and to fit into the wider constitutional fabric of Canada."

OUR GOVERNMENT

Proud British Columbians and Canadians, Nisga'a citizens are responsible for building and maintaining their own institutions. The Nisga'a Nation is represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) — a modern, forward thinking administration based on traditional culture and values. Nisga'a Government has the authority to pass laws on a broad range of matters. At the same time, Nisga'a lawmaking authority is concurrent with federal and provincial authority. Designed to assure democracy, transparency, and accountability, Nisga'a Government is comprised of NLG, the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and three Nisga'a Urban Locals.

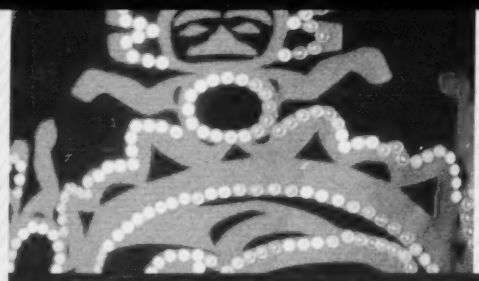
OUR VISION

"Sayt-K'ilim-Goot: one heart, one path, one nation." NLG is committed to ensuring its programs, services, and day-to-day operations reflect this vision.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Goot, the Nisga'a Nation is a place where:

- our Ayuuk, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity
- learning is a way of life
- we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance
- we inspire trust and understanding through effective communication, and
- our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

WE ARE NISGA'A, THE PEOPLE OF K'ALII-AKSIM LISIMS. FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, WE HAVE LIVED IN THE LANDS THAT K'AM LIGII HAHLHAAHL GAVE TO OUR ANCESTORS." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation



NISG̱A'A CULTURE & HERITAGE

Ni̓lhl g̱an aluut'aahl naa ṅuum̓ wil dip hooxhl Ayuuk̲hl Nisg̱a'a g̱anhl lip algax̲am̓ g̱anhl lip wilaa loom̓ / Our Ayuuk̲, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity

Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government is committed to protecting and promoting Nisg̱a'a culture in all aspects of society. Ayuuk̲hl Nisg̱a'a — the ancient laws and customs of the Nisg̱a'a people — informs, guides, and inspires Nisg̱a'a culture. The Nisg̱a'a Constitution provides that Simgigat (chiefs), Sigidim haanak̲ (matriarchs), and respected Nisg̱a'a elders advise Nisg̱a'a Government on matters relating to the traditional values of the Nisg̱a'a Nation through the Council of Elders, and that Nisg̱a'a Government must respect and encourage the use of the Nisg̱a'a language and the practice of Nisg̱a'a culture.

AYUUK̲HL NISG̱A'A DEPARTMENT

The Ayuuk̲hl Nisg̱a'a Department (AND) protects, preserves, and promotes Nisg̱a'a language, culture, and history. This is achieved through:

- development and maintenance of the catalogue system for Nisg̱a'a archives
- digitizing audio interviews with elders and past leaders
- resource and administrative support for the Council of Elders and various government committees
- liaison and negotiations with outside museums and institutes
- collaborating and supporting various language and culture initiatives by various NLG stakeholders
- research and production of books on key aspects of Nisg̱a'a culture, and
- supporting other NLG languages and culture initiatives.

During the reporting period, an Interim Access to Information Policy was developed to protect and promote the use of the Land Ownership and Occupancy Study (LOOS) archive collection. The LOOS collection represents historical and cultural documents important to the Nisg̱a'a Nation, dating from the 1980s, contained on various formats, including cassette tapes, paper transcripts, photographs, videotapes, maps, and other published resources. The digitization of the cassette and videotapes continued through the end of the reporting period.

NISG̱A'A MUSEUM

Hli G̱oothl Wilp-Adok̲shl Nisg̱a'a, the Nisg̱a'a Museum, opened in May 2011. It is the permanent home of the Ancestors' Collection — over 300 Nisg̱a'a artifacts that have been repatriated through the Nisg̱a'a Final Agreement.

Hli G̱oothl Wilp-Adok̲shl Nisg̱a'a means "The Heart of Nisg̱a'a House Crests," a name that celebrates the importance of Nisg̱a'a tribes and tribal crests in Nisg̱a'a society. With a design inspired by traditional Nisg̱a'a longhouses, feast dishes, and canoes, the 10,000 square foot facility contains exquisitely carved masks, bentwood boxes, headdresses, and soul catchers acquired from the Nass Valley during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A permanent home for the preservation and celebration of all that is Nisg̱a'a, the Nisg̱a'a Museum is becoming a centre of research, learning, and cultural tourism in northwest British Columbia. The project is funded entirely through the Nisg̱a'a Foundation and NLG.

During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Museum initiated a strategic initiative strategy. The primary goal of the strategy is to facilitate sustainability and prosperity in the Nisga'a Nation now and into the future. The three pillars of the strategy are: enhancing accessibility, developing engagement opportunities, and providing a framework for sustained growth and development. Each pillar represents a means in which to enhance the visitor experience — whether Nisga'a citizens or visitors from around the world. Developing plans for each pillar continues to be a priority for Nisga'a Museum staff. During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Museum:

- established a Nisga'a Museum Advisory Committee
- eliminated entrance fees for Nisga'a citizens
- established new didactic material in the orientation gallery
- expanded opening hours to year-round (by appointment and for special tours)
- increased visitation by over 30 percent from previous year
- developed and distributed a Teacher's Guide to the Ancestors' Collection
- established the first annual Nisga'a Museum Arts Festival (May 11)
- completed preservation of a Halayt crown in Ancestors' Collection
- hosted the Button Blanket replica project and a one-day Chilkat weaving demonstration, and
- developed new signage in conjunction with the Laxgalts'ap Cultural Village Gateway Project.

Additional funding sources secured during the reporting period include a British Columbia Arts Council Project Grant ($12,000) and a British Columbia Arts Council Youth Engagement Pilot Project Grant ($27,000).

ANHLUUT'UKWSIM LAX̲-MIHL ANGWINGA'ASA'ANSKWHL NISG̲A'A / NISG̲A'A MEMORIAL LAVA BED PARK

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park — the first provincial park managed jointly by a First Nation and British Columbia — offers spectacular natural features and a dramatic introduction to Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. With a 16-site vehicle campground, picnic areas, visitor information centre, boat launches, and short hikes, the park offers visitors a wide variety of activities and a chance to learn more about Nisga'a culture and the natural history of the region. British Columbia funds an annual agreement for park services and maintenance ($52,166).

"WE OBSERVE AYUUK̲HL NISG̲A'A, WE HAVE HEARD OUR ADAAWAK̲ RELATING TO ALL OUR ANG̲O'OSKW, FROM THE SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAK̲' OF EACH OF OUR WILP." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

NISGA'A EDUCATION

Ts'im ganwilaak'ils wil luusisgihl gandidils / Learning is a way of life

The Nisga'a Nation is committed to improving its education system, helping adult learners gain more training, and encouraging all Nisga'a to engage in lifelong learning to help build the economy and strengthen Nisga'a society.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

On Nisga'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisga'a), part of British Columbia's publicly funded school system. The school board consists of four Nisga'a members (representing each Nisga'a Village) and one non-Nisga'a member. Nisga'a Lisims Government works in partnership with the School District to foster and protect Nisga'a language and culture while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley youth.

During the reporting period, British Columbia allocated to School District #92 (Nisga'a) a total of $7.1 million in operating funding for the 2012/2013 school year. British Columbia also funded the Nisga'a Early Learning Leadership Team to help School District #92 (Nisga'a) build capacity for early learning, and $41,800 was provided to support the program in coordinating local early learning efforts. Eligible organizations on Nisga'a Lands also receive gaming grants and gaming event licenses from British Columbia. Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School has received a total of $92,402 since the Effective Date (including $5,000 during this reporting period). School District #92 (Nisga'a) also received $126,721 in CommunityLink payments, which helps provide services such as breakfast and lunch programs, community school programs, school-based support workers, and counselling for at-risk children and youth.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Nisga'a Post-Secondary Education Funding Policy's mission is to assist Nisga'a Citizens, ordinarily resident in Canada, in embracing the principles of academic freedom and responsibility. This is achieved by maintaining Nisga'a identity and cultural values and by ensuring access to high-quality education that responds to the Nisga'a Nation's diverse community, leadership, and self-government needs.

During the reporting period, the policy was amended and enhanced with the input of the post-secondary administrators, the Programs and Services Education Sub-Committee, and the data and statistics gathered on current caseloads and expenditures. Data submitted was analyzed in two categories: areas of study and financial data (including tuition, living allowance, supplies, etc.). The amended policy will be adopted during the next reporting period and will be available on the Nisga'a Nation website. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Two hundred and seventeen students were sponsored for post-secondary education funding during the reporting period. These students will be surveyed about their experience and this data will help identify trends, availability of institutional support, and student successes, as well as help determine the program's effectiveness.

Post-Secondary enrollment rates* of Nisga'a citizens, 2006–2013

*Includes university, college, Open Learning Agency, institutes, and private post-secondary institutions.

Female
Male

Post-Secondary completion rates* of Nisga'a citizens, 2006–2013

*Who were eligible to graduate.

WILP WILX̲O'OSKWHL NISG̲A'A INSTITUTE

Wilp Wilx̲o'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Institute (WWNI) is a community driven, student focused Aboriginal post-secondary and training institute that works in three areas: academic, vocational and technical, and continuing education. Through partnerships with a number of public post-secondary institutes, including a Federated Agreement with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), WWNI delivers a range of programs and training opportunities, including: Master of Arts First Nations Studies, Bachelor of Arts (First Nations Studies), University/College preparation, Grade 12 achievement, vocational/technical training, and continuing education programs.

Nisg̲a'a Language and Culture are WWNI's most subscribed courses. To date, WWNI has recorded 1,484 course completions in Nisg̲a'a language and 830 course completions in Nisg̲a'a Culture.

During the reporting period, WWNI reported 213 course enrolments in academic programs and 208 course enrolments in vocational/technical programs. Since WWNI's incorporation in 1993, graduates have earned the following credentials.

Academic

- 37 Bachelor of Arts
- 2 Bachelor of Science (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 Bachelor of Commerce (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 First Nations Language and Culture Diploma
- 1 First Nations Language and Education Diploma
- 3 Honorary Doctorate of Laws
- 1 Professor Emerita

Academic Certificates

- 46 Nisg̲a'a Studies Certificates
- 11 First Nations Language — Nisg̲a'a Certificates
- 42 General First Nations Studies Certificate

Vocational/Technical Certificates

- 208 (various)

WWN Institute Funding Sources

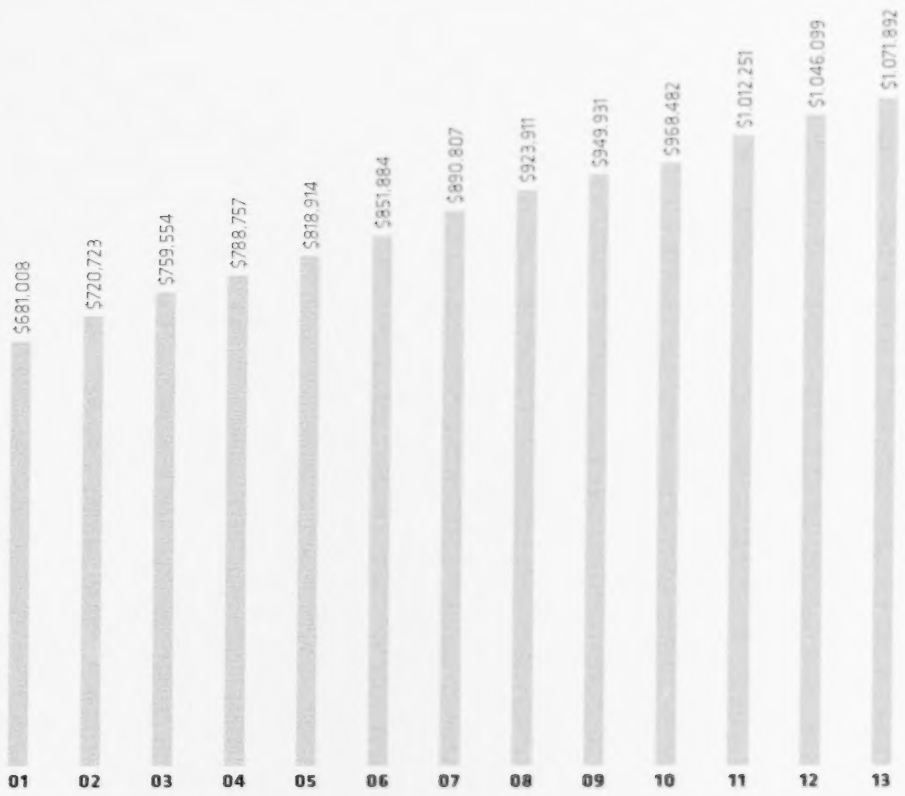
NISG̲A'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT	$37,571
NISG̲A'A NATION FFA / CANADA	$367,923
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION – NISG̲A'A NATION FFA / BC	$280,000
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION – UNBC / WWNI FEDERATED AGREEMENT / BC	$216,000
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION / BC	$120,000
HEALTH CANADA	$81,191
UNBC / WWNI ENDOWMENT FUND*	$0

*Through the Vancouver Foundation. Current Value: $1,071,892. Accrued Interest from this fund provides partial support to Nisg̲a'a Language at the WWN Institute. No disbursement in reporting period.

UNBC WILP WILX̲O'OSKWHL NISG̲A'A ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FUND

The UNBC Wilp Wilx̲o'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Endowment Foundation (a registered charitable society) was established in order to build a secure, independent funding base for WWNI's capital projects, student scholarships and bursaries, faculty and staff development, and other priorities. From its inception, WWNI has received strong support from the Nisg̲a'a people, British Columbia, and Canada. In a demonstration of support, the Nisg̲a'a business community initially contributed $100,000, and later made a $250,000 donation to the Nisg̲a'a Endowment Fund (as it was then known). This was generously matched by British Columbia and UNBC. The endowment has continued to grow under the UNBC Wilp Wilx̲o'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Endowment Foundation.

UNBC Wilp Wilx̲o'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Endowment Foundation Fund,* 2001–2013



*Annual fund value (on March 31).

"WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE VALUES OF OUR AYUUK̲, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS SUSTAINED US AND BY WHICH WE GOVERN OURSELVES, AND WE EACH ACKNOWLEDGE OUR ACCOUNTABILITY TO THOSE VALUES, AND TO THE NISG̲A'A NATION." — Declaration of the Nisg̲a'a Nation

NISGA'A ECONOMY

Sgihl gandi'aḵhla'amskw looṁ, gan wil dip dixyugwihl ha'am wil / We strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance

A fully integrated part of the economy of northwest British Columbia, the Nisga'a economy shares in both the region's opportunities and challenges. The primary industries in the Nass Valley are fishing and forestry. Seasonal resource industries are complemented by full-time employment in the government, education, and healthcare sectors. Since May 11, 2000, infrastructure improvements have brought new jobs and skills while tourism and telecommunications offer the promise of expanding and diversifying employment opportunities.

NISGA'A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through the department of Nisga'a Economic Development, NLG provides Nisga'a entrepreneurs and organizations with access to business information, tools, and financial capital. NLG is investing in research and development, infrastructure, strategic partnerships, and a variety of projects to stimulate the Nisga'a economy, support Nisga'a citizens, and promote a new era of economic prosperity and sustainability. Since the Effective Date of the Treaty, NLG has worked to lay a foundation for prosperity and self-determination through collaboration with Nisga'a Village Governments and the Nisga'a Urban Locals. This effort is resulting in a shared vision for sustainable economic prosperity.

NISGA'A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

With the goal of helping Nisga'a entrepreneurs compete in the global marketplace, the Nisga'a Business Development Fund provides advice, services, and funding. Recipients include both new and established Nisga'a enterprises with promising products or services targeted at a variety of market sectors. Funds are provided for business support and capacity building, feasibility studies and development costs, and capital investments for business infrastructure. These investments are intended to help applicants leverage funds from lending institutions and other equity programs. Tourism projects, retail and home-based businesses, small industry development, and corporate projects have all received investments. By the end of the reporting period, a total of 19 projects (total value $1.1 million) had received funding through the Nisga'a Business Development Fund.

NISGA'A COMMERCIAL GROUP OF COMPANIES

To ensure the separation between commercial interests and government programs and services, the Nisga'a Nation created Nisga'a corporations to fulfill specific needs, such as marketing fish (Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.), managing forest resources (Lisims Forest Resources), building a telecommunications infrastructure (enTel), and promoting tourism (NCG Tourism). These businesses are managed through the Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies (NCG), with a mission to improve and sustain the economic wealth and well-being of the Nisga'a Nation and its citizens by being well managed, profitable, and having a reputation for excellence. NCG is wholly owned by the Nisga'a Nation, but professionally managed by an independent Board of Directors made up of leading members of the business community who provide a wealth of experience and candid advice.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

NLG manages Nisga'a forests to protect this natural inheritance and to provide employment for Nisga'a people. Ecological sustainability is a prime consideration in the development and approval of all operations within Nisga'a Lands, and the *Nisga'a Forest Act* sets high standards to maintain biodiversity. NLG also manages all land and forest resources on Nisga'a Lands, including non-timber resources. Pine mushrooms, a popular delicacy in Asia, are a valuable resource found in Nisga'a forests and are harvested seasonally.

The forest resources on Nisga'a Lands represent a vast range of potential opportunities. During the past decade, a significantly depressed forest economy has meant that only a relatively small timber harvest volume was economically viable. This situation began to improve during the reporting period and will likely continue to improve. Since the end of the forestry transition period in 2005, the Nisga'a Nation has never logged up to the full allowable annual harvest level. The Nisga'a Nation is entering this improving market with a significant supply of available timber.

During the reporting period, NLG completed a new Forest Cover Inventory. Based on the information gained, the new Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) will be determined by Director of Land and Resources. AAC is a judgment decision based on current management activities on the land that includes all aspects of forest management in integration with other resources and resource interaction (i.e. the effect of timber harvesting on wildlife habitat). NLG's AAC determination is independent from British Columbia's Timbers Supply Review process, the Chief Forester's AAC determination, and harvest levels on Crown lands.

NLG collects a silviculture levy to ensure reforestation of cut-blocks on Nisga'a Lands is funded over the long-term. The current fund is approximately $1 million.

Cubic Metres of Timber Harvested Since 2001*

2001 74,469
2002 59,557
2003 41,646
2004 21,352
2005 83,100
2006 72,100 / **$4,479,502**
2007 87,400 / **$5,583,262**
2008 21,000 / **$2,233,743**
2009 82,000 / **$3,804,395**
2010 23,000 / **$2,100,000**
2011 71,149 / **$6,263,463**
2012 42,035 / **$3,194,660**

*Dollar value of timber sales reported beginning in 2006.

PROVINCIAL FUNDING

In 2003, following the bankruptcy of New Skeena Forest Products, British Columbia assumed responsibility for completing unfulfilled treaty obligations. The work involved re-planting cut-blocks, maintaining roads, and decommissioning two abandoned work sites. During the reporting period, British Columbia undertook the following projects on Nisga'a Lands:

- mountain pine beetle remediation work, aerial detection flight from Rosswood to New Aiyansh ($5,452) and probing of 33 sites (completed in-house)
- brush and weeding work, 46 hectares treated ($37,895), and
- forest growth surveys, carried out over 247 hectares ($15,834).

NISGA'A FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

One of the healthiest river systems in the world, K'alii-Aksim Lisims (the Nass) is the spawning grounds of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and oolichan. NLG and Canada manage the Nass River salmon fishery to preserve the resource, provide for Nisga'a citizens, and support a modern, sustainable fishing industry. Facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC), which is comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation, the Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program utilizes fish wheels and other technologies on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessments on a variety of species throughout the Nass Area. NLG works with British Columbia to manage the non-salmon sport fishery.

Since 1992, the Nass salmon stock status has been monitored annually by NLG's Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Department (NFWD). In 2012, the Total Returns to Canada (TRTC) for all Nass salmon species were below their ten-year averages except for Pink salmon. However, spawning targets for Nass salmon (and steelhead) species were achieved, with the exception of Chinook and Chum salmon stocks that were in the progress of rebuilding from recent poor returns.

During the reporting period, NLG and British Columbia worked closely on a variety of activities, including technical and management of stock assessment initiatives for steelhead, trout, char, and their habitats. British Columbia also provided assistance and direction on freshwater recreational non-salmon angling management and angling guide management issues. An annual summer-run Steelhead scale analysis (for the determination of age) was jointly funded by NLG and British Columbia. NLG and British Columbia consulted on, and/or jointly undertook, the following initiatives:

- planning and monitoring of the Kwinageese fish passage blockage restoration project
- enumeration of summer run steelhead entering the Nass watershed
- enumeration and tagging of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden char at the Zaulzap Creek fish fence
- monitoring of Meziadin Bull Trout at the Federal Fisheries weir and fish trap, and
- Skeena Regions proposal, presented by British Columbia to both NLG and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), to reduce recreational angler regional harvest quota for trout and char in streams.

In addition, NLG and British Columbia discussed matters regarding fish habitat protection as it relates to the following:

- proposed transport truck recovery operations in Strohn Lake
- proposed mine development in the Kitsault watershed and historical mine acid rock drainage into the Lime Creek, a vital marine food gathering area for Nisga'a citizens
- proposed Kerr-Sulphurets Mitchell mine development in the Bell Irving watershed (under Environmental Assessment review)
- Cranberry Falls fish passage enhancement project (proposed to BC Hydro under Fish Compensation), and
- Gitanyow First Nation roadblock at kilometer 24 on the Cranberry Connector, which prevented access to Nisga'a Lands — British Columbia responded through the province's critical incident management process.

Salmon Harvested in Individual and Communal Sale Fisheries

	SOCKEYE	COHO	PINK	CHUM	CHINOOK	REVENUE
2001	51,427	12,068	75,820	1,078	–	$637,000
2002	108,814	6,800	–	–	–	$1,177,000
2003	114,572	13,672	14,075	23	–	$1,326,000
2004	116,671	17,170	8,983	–	–	$1,619,000
2005	82,679	12,585	2,361	577	857	$956,000
2006	64,253	5,249	3,042	948	1,946	$671,000
2007	33,624	6,372	3,688	697	2,435	$484,000
2008	17,728	793	3,438	276	–	$206,126
2009	45,542	10,406	20,895	–	1,597	$624,000
2010	33,818	7,768	1,338	1	28	$440,000
2011	18,364	1,134	40,460	0	874	$347,435
2012	39,961	9,037	3,628	0	649	$961,124

Chart based on individual fish caught. Estimated catch in Individual and Communal Sale fisheries. Revenue is estimated revenue to local economy. Estimated value based on annual average weight and price per pound for each species in Area 3 commercial fisheries.

NASS RIVER: A CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE FISHERY

The health of the Nass River continues to garner international acclaim. During the reporting period, Nass Sockeye salmon were again certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable fishery. Maintaining this highly respected certification is a testament to the management of Nass salmon stocks under the framework of the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

NASS SALMON & STEELHEAD SAVED FROM HABITAT BLOCKAGE

In 2011, NLG effected a successful emergency remediation of a blocked fish-bearing stream. This remediation saved thousands of salmon and steelhead that had been blocked from passage into the upper Kwinageese River by a rockslide. During the reporting period, NLG received funding from the Pacific Salmon Commission to monitor the barrier and develop additional mitigation measures (if necessary) to save future salmon returns. The work included:

- conducting a geotechnical and fish passage assessment in late winter/ early spring after high water events had occurred
- removing any visible cables from the newly installed concrete weir
- conducting additional remediation measures to promote long-term fish passage (based on the geotechnical assessment)
- conducting site inspections during peak salmon migration, and
- conducting a final site inspection after the fall floods.

The monitoring efforts found that the remedial measures continued to be effective and salmon and steelhead passage was not impaired. Geotechnical work and monitoring efforts of the blockage will continue in 2013.

NASS RETAINS CHINOOK "SENTINEL STOCK" STATUS

Since 2009, the upper Nass River Chinook stock has been recognized by the Pacific Salmon Commission as a "Sentinel Stock" critical to the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty between Canada and the United States. During the reporting period, the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department was awarded its fourth annual installment of this multi-year program funding (totaling approximately $374,000 to date) to enhance its ability to estimate the abundance of these critical Chinook populations. The funding helped improve tagging and tag-recovery efforts at key spawning locations (including Meziadin, Kwinageese, and Damdochax) to achieve the Sentinel Stock Program's population accuracy standard. The Pacific Salmon Commission also provided funds ($27,000) to support the rebuilding of the fish wheels that were damaged in fall floods in 2011.

NASS OOLICHAN ASSESSMENTS

During the reporting period, the Nisga'a catch monitoring program reported a good return of oolichan to the Nass River with 203 tons caught by five Nisga'a fish camps — above the average catch of 180 tons from 1997–2012 and with less effort than in past years.

The Nisga'a oolichan catch-monitoring program was expanded to improve data collection that could better inform science-based management decisions after the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessments of the Nass River oolichan. Although the Nass oolichan population appeared stable during the reporting period, COSEWIC recommended that Nass oolichan be listed as a species of "Special Concern" due to substantial declines of the species in adjacent areas and potential threats in the marine environment and spawning habitat. As a result of the listing recommendation, a management plan for Nass oolichan will be developed to ensure protection of this valuable resource.

FISH & WILDLIFE ASSESSMENTS

During the reporting period, NLG undertook fish and wildlife assessments and inventories in the Nass Area. The primary objective of this project is to evaluate wildlife and fisheries resources as directed by the Nass Wildlife Committee and the Joint Fisheries Management Committee, such as steelhead, trout, and char stock assessments, and moose inventories in the Nass watershed.

The Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Department also received two years of funding (totaling approximately $65,000) from the Coastal Opportunity Funds to prepare a Nass Moose Recovery Plan that will involve the review of moose habitat, population, and harvest data using computer simulation methods to help identify potential causes of the decline since 2001 (e.g., over-harvest, predation, disease, and habitat suitability). In addition to the recovery plan, the funding supports Nisga'a community consultations.

LISIMS FISHERIES CONSERVATION TRUST

The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program applies the highest standards in the areas of conservation and environmental protection to ensure a healthy, productive aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is ensured, in part, by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the trust, and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Management Committee are taken into account in sponsoring projects, programs, and activities that are in keeping with the trust's objectives. The trust promotes conservation and protection of Nass Area fish species, facilitates sustainable management, and supports Nisga'a participation in fishery stewardship for the benefit of all Canadians.

Investment Status of Lisims Trust

	NET ASSET VALUE[1]	DISBURSEMENT
2001	$13,720,000	$0
2002	$12,300,000	$0
2003	$12,210,000	$0
2004	$13,370,000	$313,000
2005	$14,860,000	$600,000
2006	$15,590,000	$600,000
2007	$15,650,000	$550,000
2008	$12,230,000	$0
2009	$14,390,000	$550,000
2010	$15,428,380	$550,000
2011	$14,127,661	$575,000
2012	$14,586,330	$550,000

1 Approximate Net Asset Value (on Dec. 31).

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Resource Enforcement, Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Directorate of Lands and Resources work together to enforce Nisga'a procedures, policies, and laws under the *Fisheries and Wildlife Act*, *Nisga'a Forest Act*, and *Nisga'a Offence Act*. Currently, three personnel are committed to the Department of Resource Enforcement team.

With the goal of protecting and preserving the region's natural resources, NLG's Department of Resource Enforcement works with DFO and British Columbia's Conservation Officer Service to ensure that all Nisga'a, provincial, and federal laws are enforced on Nisga'a Lands.

During the reporting period, the Department of Resource Enforcement (DRE) was directly involved in numerous files pertaining to illegal fishing and illegal hunting on or near Nisga'a Lands. The public encountered DRE-led road checks in specific areas of the Nass Wildlife Area. These roadblocks (involving the Lisims/Nass Valley RCMP, DFO, and the Conservation Officer Service) aid in the protection of Treaty interests, conservation of the fish and wildlife resources, and allow the DRE to connect with and educate anyone utilizing the Nass Wildlife Area for recreational opportunities. Roadblocks were held three times during the reporting period to ensure fishing and hunting regulations were being followed.

With the increased activity on or near Nisga'a Lands, the DRE has had increased visibility on the Northwest Transmission Line. Patrols in other areas include Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Kitsault mine area, the Cranberry Connector to Highway 37, Beaupre, Fulmar, and most places in between. During the reporting period, on any given the day, DRE personnel could be found out in the field ensuring the resources of the Nisga'a Nation were being protected on both the land and water.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As a member of the tripartite Nass Wildlife Committee, NLG co-manages wildlife in the 16,101 km² Nass Wildlife Area. Under the Treaty, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear have been identified as designated species for which there are specific Nisga'a allocations. The committee reviews available data annually and makes recommendations regarding total allowable harvests and Nisga'a allocations for these species. British Columbia uses this information to establish total allowable harvests and approve the annual Nass Wildlife Management Plan. Through the Fiscal Financing Agreement, British Columbia provides $20,000 annually to NLG for wildlife management. NLG has implemented a permit system to manage the harvest of designated species by Nisga'a citizens.

NLG's Fisheries and Wildlife Department report that grizzly bear and mountain goat populations in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) were healthy during the reporting period. However, due to a declining moose population, harvest limits have been implemented and the hunting season altered. Between 2001 and 2007, the moose population in the NWA declined from an estimated 1,600 animals to 500 animals. The cause of the decline is uncertain, but a number of potential factors have been identified, including overharvest, habitat change, and predation.

Both the Nass Wildlife Committee and British Columbia have identified the need for a comprehensive effort to define practical strategies to reverse the decline of Nass moose populations and re-establish population levels that would support a sustainable harvest for all parties. Together, they are developing a Moose Management Plan that will:

- review the past and present state of moose population and management in the NWA
- attempt to identify causes of the decline and key factors now limiting the moose population
- gather community feedback, and
- recommend a course of action with the ultimate goal of increasing the moose population to a level that can support a sustainable harvest.

NASS AREA STRATEGY WORKING GROUP & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NLG's Nass Area Strategy Working Group (NASWG) reviews and prepares responses for various environmental referrals and processes. During the reporting period, NASWG reviewed referrals from British Columbia and Canada regarding mineral exploration projects, land tenures, forest tenures, environmental permits, etc. NLG's participation in various external Environmental Assessment processes is also managed by NASWG.

Where necessary, NLG hires technical experts to provide advice. NLG does not rely on technical experts of proponents. The costs of participating in environmental assessments (i.e. hiring technical experts and negotiating benefit agreements) are paid for by project proponents through capacity funding agreements. Canada and British Columbia undertake environmental assessments of projects that may impact Nisga'a Lands or interests and consult NLG in this process. NLG actively participates in these assessments.

Northwest Transmission Line

The Northwest Transmission Line is a 335-km, 287 kV transmission line between Skeena Substation (near Terrace) and a new substation to be built near Bob Quinn Lake. The agreement between NLG and British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) ensures that as long as the Northwest Transmission Line is on Nisga'a Lands, Nisga'a people will benefit and the environment will be protected. This agreement marks the first time since the Effective Date that the rights of NLG under the Environmental Assessment and Protection Chapter of the Treaty have been tested. Rights to consultation were implemented, rights to environmental mitigation of adverse affects are complied with, as well as rights in connection with Nisga'a Nation economic participation were all achieved in this approval process.

During the reporting period, 60 Nisga'a citizens were employed on the Northwest Transmission Line, either directly with Nass Area Enterprises as the primary contractor, or with other sub-contractors working on the Northwest Transmission Line. NLG considers this a small, yet significant success story in the realization of sustainable prosperity and the improvement in quality of life under the Treaty.

During the reporting period, NLG also took part in numerous Environmental Assessments involving projects that may impact the Nisga'a Nation's treaty interests. The most notable of these assessments involve the following projects.

Kitsault Mine

In accordance with the Dispute Resolution chapter of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the Nisga'a Nation delivered Notices of Disagreement to British Columbia and Canada alleging breaches or anticipated breaches of the Nisga'a Treaty in respect of the environmental assessments conducted by the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Office of the proposed Kitsault Mine Project as well as a related decision by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Dispute Resolution chapter provides for a staged approach to settling the disagreement between the parties. Shortly after receiving the Notices of Disagreement, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation entered Stage 1 of the confidential Dispute Resolution process, Collaborative Negotiations, which were still in progress at the end of the reporting period.

Seabridge Gold Inc. / KSM Mine

A draft Benefits Agreement with Seabridge Gold Inc. was prepared in respect of an open-pit gold, copper, silver, and molybdenum mine development near the headwaters of the Unuk River. The project is known as the Kerr-Sulphurets Mitchell (KSM) Mine. Pursuant to the Draft Agreement, Seabridge will provide revenue-sharing payments over the scheduled life of the project, capacity funding to contribute towards NLG's costs of participating in a Joint Implementation Committee, employment opportunities, contracting opportunities for Nisga'a businesses, training and education of Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a businesses, and commitments in respect of mitigation and monitoring of environmental impacts.

Long Lake Hydroelectric Project

A Benefits Agreement was entered into with Long Lake Hydro Inc. (LLHI) Project on Cascade Creek near the town of Stewart. The agreement provides for revenue-sharing payments. NLG was previously compensated to offset costs incurred in connection with participation in the Environmental Assessment of the project and negotiation of the agreement. LLHI has agreed to make additional payments for any additional, reasonable, and documented out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Nisga'a Nation. The agreement also provides NLG a right of first refusal to purchase the project, as well as employment, training, and business opportunities for Nisga'a citizens and businesses.

Windriver Kinskuch Lake Project

A proposal regarding payment terms in relation to the Windriver Kinskuch Lake Project, a small-scale hydroelectric project was received. The proposal stipulates that NLG will be granted an interest in the equity of the project with voting rights and appropriate board representation. The proposal also includes a revenue-sharing agreement, compensation for costs of negotiations and any flooding in relation to the project, employment and service opportunities, training and employment plans, as well as contracting opportunities.

Pretium Resources Inc. / Brucejack

NLG prepared a draft Confidentiality Agreement and draft Funding Agreement with Pretium Resources Inc., with respect to a potential underground gold and silver mine near Brucejack Lake. The purpose of the draft Funding Agreement is to offset the costs incurred by the Nisga'a Nation in connection with its participation in the permitting processes for the Brucejack Project and provides for cash payments to NLG on execution of the Funding Agreement, submission of the environmental assessment application, and the acceptance of the environmental assessment application. Negotiations for a Benefits Agreement are expected to commence in the next reporting period.

NISGA'A INDIVIDUAL LANDHOLDING PROJECT

Holding the title to one's own land offers the potential to generate capital for economic development. Developing nations and their citizens are crippled by their inability to use the title to their lands as a means of raising capital. No longer bound by the *Indian Act*, this should not be the case for the Nisga'a Nation or its citizens. Yet Nisga'a citizens have, until recently, been unable to benefit from the equity in their homes and Nisga'a Villages have been unable to capitalize on their assets. The Nisga'a Individual Landholding Project has changed this.

Unrestricted fee simple ownership, possible since October 2012, now allows Nisga'a citizens to own land in fee simple and to be able to approach lending institutions for a mortgage without requiring a guarantee from the Nisga'a Nation. Providing Nisga'a citizens with the ability to use their residential properties to raise capital — like other Canadians — unlocks an important resource for supporting economic growth, investment, and increase prosperity for Nisga'a citizens.

During the reporting period, the first residential properties were transferred to Nisga'a owners, who now own their land in fee simple with no restriction on ownership or transferability.

"THE NISGA'A NATION WILL PROSPER AS A SELF-RELIANT SOCIETY WITH A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY. NISGA'A CULTURE, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND WELL-BEING WILL BE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

COMMUNICATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Wil dip adigwil nidixdidalk̲tdim̓ g̲an wilhl sgihl ax̲y̓ookskw sk̲'apdim̓ / We inspire trust and understanding through effective communication

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate of Nisg̲a'a Lisims Government works to improve the way government members communicate with each other, Nisg̲a'a citizens, its Treaty partners, and the wider world.

COMMUNICATING WITH CITIZENS

NLG is committed to maintaining open, honest, and effective channels of communication. Special Assemblies are held every two years, where government members report (both in person and in a printed report) on all areas of governance and public programs. Every Nisg̲a'a citizen has the right to attend and speak at Special Assemblies and the proceedings are webcast to ensure all Nisg̲a'a citizens are able to participate.

In addition to biennial Special Assemblies, the directorate:

- publishes NLG's monthly newsletter
- maintains and enhances website (www.nisgaanation.ca) and social media
- develops and maintains websites and social media for major events
- webcasts important events
- broadcasts Nisg̲a'a news and information to Nisg̲a'a Villages, Urban Locals, and Nisg̲a'a institutions, and
- compiles and maintains a photo gallery of significant events.

REACHING THE WIDER WORLD

While some issues and initiatives are specific to Nisg̲a'a citizens, others may have regional, provincial, or national implications. The Nisg̲a'a Final Agreement is a groundbreaking treaty and its implementation is being closely watched. Fostering a broad understanding of the Treaty is the goal of the directorate's public relations efforts. This goal is achieved through the production and distribution of information packages, videos, media alerts, press releases, interviews, and collaborating with Treaty partners (Canada and British Columbia) in the production of this report.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate is also responsible for emergency planning and response. During the reporting period, the Nisg̲a'a Nation adopted a new "all hazards" emergency plan. The plan establishes sound and consistent protocols that are adhered to while responding to any emergency event. NLG activated its plan for a coordinated response to several events during the reporting period, including a magnitude 7.7 earthquake off the coast of Haida Gwaii, and a magnitude 7.5 earthquake off the coast of Alaska. The directorate remains focused on training, running exercises, planning, and promoting public awareness.

ELECTRONIC & SOCIAL MEDIA

During the reporting period, a full audit and redesign of the NLG website took place and the site was re-launched during the 2013 Nisga'a Day celebrations in May. The website, which contains over 300 web pages, is now an attractive and intuitive gateway to the Nisga'a Nation providing a wide range of content, including information on:

- Nisga'a culture and history
- Nisga'a government (including the Treaty, NLG, Nisga'a Village Governments Nisga'a Urban Locals, Nisga'a statutes, Nisga'a Elections, and Nisga'a publications)
- services offered by NLG (including enrollment, housing, justice, youth services, child and family services, post-secondary education, K-12 education, links to health services and finance)
- natural resources (including Nisga'a Lands, environment, forestry, fisheries and wildlife)
- opportunities relating to employment, training, working at NLG, the Nass Area Strategy, and Nisga'a business development information
- planning a visit to Nisga'a Lands
- stories relevant to the Nisga'a Nation, and
- cultural events and feasts.

NLG is also active on Facebook, where Nisga'a citizens are provided with the opportunity to directly engage with their NLG government members, post questions, and receive responses.

NISGA'A FOUNDATION

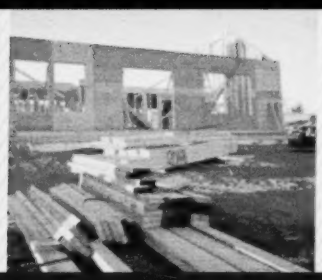
The directorate undertakes the promotion of NLG's Nisga'a Foundation. The foundation was established to seek out funding opportunities to leverage the existing resources of the Nisga'a Nation, and to partner with various foundations and charitable organizations to promote the social, environmental, and economic aspirations of Nisga'a Nation. During the reporting period, the directorate reviewed the action plan to promote the foundation, but did not make any applications.

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT COALITION

When it comes to treaty-making, Nisga'a Lisims Government has a wealth of experience to share. As a way of reaching out to and partnering with First Nations across Canada, NLG is a member of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC). During the reporting period, elected representatives of NLG served as Co-Chairs on at the coalition's Ottawa conference, "Keeping the Promise — The Path Ahead to Full Modern Treaty Implementation." The Nisga'a Nation was honoured at the conference in a ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Calder Decision. Retired Justice Thomas Berger was honoured by NLG with the presentation of a carved hayatskw pendant in recognition of his immeasurable contributions toward resolving the Land Question in the Calder Case.

NLG representatives report that progress is being made towards establishing a federal implementation policy. Canada has agreed to establish a working group to begin drafting the basis for an implementation policy and has begun exchanging draft texts. Much work remains to be done, but NLG is optimistic that it signals progress in this area.

"WE ARE NISGA'A. WE DECLARE TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE A UNIQUE ABORIGINAL NATION OF CANADA, PROUD OF OUR HISTORY, AND ASSURED IN OUR FUTURE. WE CLAIM AND TAKE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS EQUAL PARTICIPANTS IN CANADIAN SOCIETY. OUR DESTINY IS LIVING PEACEFULLY TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF CANADA." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Dimt hugaxam diyeem̓ ńidiit t an dixde'entgum̓ / Our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs

Guided by Nisg̱a'a culture and best practices from around the world, Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government works to improve the lives of Nisg̱a'a people. In partnership with the four Nisg̱a'a Village Governments, NLG delivers a wide range of culturally appropriate programs and services in the areas of health, education, social development, local services, and access to justice.

FISCAL FINANCING AGREEMENT

The Treaty requires the Parties to enter into a Fiscal Financing Agreement describing the financial relationship among the Parties. The FFA sets out funding amounts from Canada and British Columbia to NLG for supporting agreed-upon government programs and services, and for supporting treaty implementation activities. The FFA also sets out terms, conditions, and reporting requirements for transfer payments. Canada pays $58.7 million each year as a block-fund for federally-supported programs and services, including: education, social development, health, physical works, local government, and non-commercial fisheries. British Columbia pays $4,354,595. All federal and provincial transfers were completed on time. Canada and British Columbia may also provide additional program or project funding to NLG to support specific initiatives; these funding amounts are indicated in relevant sections of this report.

The current Nisg̱a'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement was signed by the Parties on February 26, 2010 with effective dates of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2015. During the reporting period, NLG began preparations for negotiation of the next FFA by assigning a Working Group and developing a framework.

QUALITY OF LIFE STRATEGY

NLG's Quality of Life strategy seeks to develop a public policy framework to guide the programs, policies, and other activities that — taken together — will provide a measurable improvement in the quality of life of Nisg̱a'a citizens. During the reporting period, an assessment of health, education, and social service initiatives was undertaken — with a particular focus on early childhood development. Addressing the needs of children in these early years is a critical goal. NLG held a Quality of Life Summit, which brought together Nisg̱a'a public service providers and citizens (via an on-line tool) to gather input. Participants focused on removing obstacles to an improved quality of life for Nisg̱a'a children. A framework was developed to allow for measurement based on the collection of data to form a baseline.

NLG is committed to aligning its governance, administration, and programs and services toward the goal of improving the quality of life of Nisg̱a'a citizens. A second summit will be held in the near future.

NISG̱A'A VALLEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

Nisg̱a'a Government manages the delivery of healthcare in Nisg̱a'a communities through the Nisg̱a'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA). Registered under the *Societies Act*, the elected body includes representatives from the four Nisg̱a'a Villages and an elected representative from the non-Nisg̱a'a community. Responsible for creating and maintaining facilities and promoting medical and public healthcare programs, NVHA operates a diagnostic centre in New Aiyansh and satellite clinics in the other Nisg̱a'a Villages, providing physician services, home care, cultural community health representatives, and the

administration of non-insured health benefits. Nisga'a citizens report a high level of satisfaction with health services on Nisga'a Lands and consider NVHA one of Canada's most progressive, efficient, and effective First Nations healthcare organizations. NVHA is funded with an annual $1.3 million investment from Canada. During the reporting period, British Columbia contributed a total of $2,056,030.

During the reporting period, the NVHA began working with BC Emergency Medical Services to establish an ambulance service on Nisga'a Lands. Capacity for the ambulance service is dependent on the availability of first emergency responders within each of the communities. Gitwinksihlkw and Laxgalts'ap have recently provided first responder training to their members with the goal of establishing this capacity. In collaboration with NVHA, Gitwinksihlkw is currently exploring an emergency medical responder training program to offer first responders. A five-year evaluation was underway, as required by the service delivery agreement. A final report is anticipated in 2014.

NISGA'A CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

NLG provides service options to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and policies. This is achieved through Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS), which works to support Nisga'a families through the promotion and utilization of the Ayuuk. With offices located in New Aiyansh, Terrace, and Prince Rupert, NCFS provides both statutory services (an extension of the child welfare law) and non-statutory services (volunteer community services). This is achieved through funding from British Columbia ($2.2 million) and Canada ($4.4 million). During the reporting period, NCFS received an additional $100,000 from British Columbia to provide support in the areas of Child and Youth Mental Health and Aboriginal Justice.

NCFS offers support services for families, which promote sound parenting practices and respite care. Voluntary care agreements allow parents to place their children in a safe, approved home during medical treatment or training. Special Needs agreements ensure the safe care of children with special needs. NCFS also distributes support payments to families for providing foster care for Nisga'a children in Nisga'a family care homes. Other services include:

- Family Group Conference Program, which provides a venue for alternative family dispute resolution
- Infant Development Program, which benefits children from birth to three years of age by providing support and education for parents, and
- Supported Child Care Development Program, which supports and provides advocacy for children with special needs.

NCFS surplus funds provide resources for the following NLG programs:

- Youth Worker Program
- Recreation Program
- Community Workshops, and
- Family Support Services.

CHILD PROTECTION (C-6) STATUS

Nisga'a Child and Family Services continued to work with British Columbia in preparation for the transition to Child Protection (or c-6) status under the province's *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. When this transition is complete, NLG will have control over the last important area of child and family service delivery. Delegated staff will be able to conduct child welfare investigations, remove children at risk, and make representations to family court with respect to children in need of protection. This is an important step in the evolution of NLG, one that has the potential to make an enormous, positive change in the lives of Nisga'a children and their families.

During the reporting period, NCFS completed a Service Delivery Plan and a Transition Plan, as well as all changes required through a regular auditing process. NCFS continued the restructuring of its Human

Resources Department to accommodate the Services Delivery Plan, began training two Nisga'a social workers to the standard of c-6 practice within the Nass Valley, and opened a satellite office in Laxgalts'ap.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

NLG is committed to supporting healthy and economically prosperous Nisga'a communities where children, youth, and adults have hope and opportunities, and access to social programs that support a healthy living standard. This is accomplished by developing individual and family strengths and by providing access to social services that will enhance their self-sufficiency. As social policies are continuously evolving, NLG keeps apprised of any provincial changes and ensures NLG's policies and services are reasonably comparable to those available to residents elsewhere in British Columbia. The following programs are funded through the FFA:

- Basic Needs
- Training Employment Support
- Special Needs
- Family Violence Prevention
- Guardian Financial Assistance
- Community Support Services
- Adult In-Home Care
- National Child Benefit Reinvestment
- Employment Initiatives, and
- Community Preventative Services.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

NLG's Access to Justice Department works to involve every Nisga'a citizen in promoting safety by building on the strengths of individuals, families, and communities. The Justice Department supports the prevention and resolution of conflicts by increasing awareness of the Nisga'a Ayuuk and Canadian laws through the following programs.

- **The Aboriginal Justice Program** assists the Justice System in improving its relevance and effectiveness in Nisga'a communities; encourages the revival of traditional Nisga'a practices in resolving conflict; develops alternative programming to deal with deterrence and prevention, diversion, sentencing, rehabilitation, and incarceration; and encourages crime prevention through information, education, and community development programming with Nisga'a communities. (Funded $74,718 annually from British Columbia.)
- **The Yuuhlimk'askw Program and Youth Justice Program** provide culturally appropriate alternative justice solutions and help Nisga'a communities effectively respond to youth justice issues/needs. (Funded $79,101 annually from Canada.)
- **The Nass Valley Victim Services Program** provides emotional support to victims of crime during their recovery and involvement with the justice process. (Funded $35,560 annually by British Columbia.)

In addition, during the reporting period NLG's Access to Justice Department partnered with Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, the RCMP, and the Terrace Legal Society in providing numerous presentations and programs (relating to anti-violence, anti-bullying, and safety for women and children) in School District #92 Nisga'a.

NISGA'A REGISTRY OF LAWS

The Nisga'a Registry of Laws is housed in NLG's offices and is available to the public. Updated on a regular basis, the registry consists of laws, regulations, and amendments currently in force, which are now available on the NLG website at: www.nisgaanation.ca. During the reporting period, WSN amended and/or reenacted the following legislation:

Nisga'a Fisheries Amendment Regulation, 2012
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation, 2012
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation (No. 2), 2012
Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Landholding Transition Regulation

Nisga'a Land Title Regulation
Nisga'a Law and Equity Act In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Partition of Property Act In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Property Law Act In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2012
Nisga'a Land Title Amendment Regulation, 2013
Nisga'a Personal Income Tax Act.

NISGA'A SETTLEMENT TRUST

Under the Treaty, the capital transfer to the Nisga'a Nation is paid over 14 years. NLG has developed a risk budgeting framework for these funds, known as the Nisga'a Settlement Trust. During the reporting period, NLG realized nearly $2 million savings in interest payments by refinancing the Nisga'a Treaty Loan at substantially lower interest rates. The trust continued to experience overall growth despite uncertainty in global financial markets, albeit slightly below original targets.

NLG diligently monitors the trust to ensure continued growth. Where other elected administrations routinely plan four to five years into the future, the primary goal of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust is to provide financial stability to the Nisga'a Nation through the seventh generation.

Annual Nisga'a Settlement Trust fund value*

*Annual fund value (on March 31).

PERSONAL INCOME TAXATION

Under the Treaty, the income tax exemption for Nisga'a citizens, and all Status Indians employed on Nisga'a Lands, expired during the reporting period (January 1, 2013). Nisga'a citizens are no longer exempt from income tax if they are employed on any reserve land in Canada. Prior to the conclusion of the exemption, NLG negotiated and executed revenue sharing agreements with Canada and British Columbia for federal and provincial personal income tax respectively. Under the agreement with Canada, income taxes paid by Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands will flow to the Nisga'a Nation. In addition, some income taxes paid by non-Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands will also flow to the Nisga'a Nation. Under the agreement with British Columbia, the Nisga'a Nation receives 50 percent of provincial personal income tax paid by Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands. In both agreements, residency is determined as the ordinary residence of the individual on the last calendar day of each tax year (December 31st).

"WE ARE NISGA'A, THE PEOPLE OF K'ALII-AKSIM LISIMS. MAY K'AM LIGII HAHLHAAHL CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR LAND AND NATION."
— Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

CONSUMPTION TAXATION

In accordance with the Treaty, relief from consumption taxes – in the form of remission orders – expired on June 1, 2008 for all persons within Nisga'a Lands and for Nisga'a citizens elsewhere in Canada.

During the reporting period, British Columbia and the Nisga'a Nation updated the 2008 consumption taxation revenue sharing arrangements to reflect British Columbia's move to the Harmonized Sales Taxation regime in 2010. British Columbia also commenced and concluded negotiations on a Provincial Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement (PSTRSA) in anticipation of the April 1, 2013 return of British Columbia's provincial sales taxation regime. Under the PSTRSA, British Columbia will share 50 percent of provincial sales tax revenues estimated to be attributable to Nisga'a citizens resident on Nisga'a Lands. The PSTRSA will replace all previous consumption taxation agreement between the Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia.

PROPERTY TAXATION

The Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia have been negotiating a Real Property Tax Coordination Agreement to implement a property tax system on Nisga'a Lands since 2010. Both parties agreed that a Nisga'a property tax system would need to take into consideration unique circumstances of the Nisga'a Nation and Nisga'a Lands while adhering to the specific provisions of the Treaty.

Although some progress had been made, the negotiations stalled midway on a number of key outstanding issues and did not resume prior to the end of the reporting period.

BUDGET SURPLUS

During the reporting period, NLG posted a record budget surplus. While consolidated financial statements reported a $6.1 million surplus for fiscal 2011, in fiscal 2012 consolidated financial statements reported a budget surplus of $14.3 million. These surpluses were the result of significant one-time events and careful management of NLG's financial resources. Revenues rose dramatically in fiscal 2012 to $90.1 million (from $73.2 million in 2011) as a result of the Interim Nisga'a Settlement Trust (the "Trust") realizing large amounts of investment income as well as benefit payments from the Northwest Transmission Line Impact Benefit Agreement. NLG also received significant targeted revenues from Canada in relation to the construction of Gitwinksihlkw's new water system.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

From time immemorial, Nisga'a elders have selected youth and trained them to become leaders of their respective wilps (houses). In keeping with this tradition, Nisga'a Government continues to engage and train the leaders of tomorrow. NLG is committed to improving access for Nisga'a youth to programs and services by involving them in the social and economic decision-making of government. This is accomplished through the Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC). Each Nisga'a Village and each Nisga'a Urban Local has its own Youth Council, which sends a representative to the seven-member NYAC.

In addition to taking an active role in government, Nisga'a youth participated in the following events during the reporting period:

- Nisga'a Valley Health Authority Youth Conference
- Gathering Our Nations event
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention
- Canoe Journey, and
- Kitsault Treaty Training program.

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

A pillar in the foundation of good governance is a government's ability to maintain transparency and accountability in its day-to-day operation. The Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation (Nisga'a Constitution) came into effect on May 11, 2000, and provides for the establishment of Nisga'a Lisims Government, each of the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and the three Nisga'a Urban Locals. The Nisga'a Constitution further called for the establishment of Nisga'a Laws, which, among other things, contain provisions for transparency and accountability in government decision-making and financial administration.

One of over 200 laws enacted since the Effective Date, the *Nisga'a Government Act* stipulates requirements for the frequency of meetings of various bodies, such as Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), the NLG Executive, the Council of Elders, and all other House committees of Nisga'a Government. The *Nisga'a Government Act* also enforces the Members' Code of Conduct, which specifies requirements with respect to the conduct of each elected and appointed Nisga'a representative while serving in their official capacity.

The Nisga'a Government's standards of financial administration are comparable to standards generally accepted for governments in Canada. There are requirements in Nisga'a Laws for budgets, quarterly reports, annual reports, and audits of the financial activities of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions.

The *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* stipulates details for oversight, management and control of all financial matters of the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Government, and Nisga'a Public Institutions. Under the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* there must be an annual independent audit of financial statements of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions, which is made available for inspection by Nisga'a citizens and is available on the Nisga'a Lisims Government website: www.nisgaanation.ca.

The Nisga'a Nation is also accountable to the governments of Canada and British Columbia for the funding provided by those governments and fulfills this obligation by submitting reports and audits, annually or as required.

"THE TRADITIONAL ROLES OF SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAḴ, AND RESPECTED NISGA'A ELDERS, AS RECOGNIZED AND HONOURED IN NISGA'A CULTURE FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, WILL BE RESPECTED; NISGA'A ELDERS, SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAḴ WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE AYUUḴ TO NISGA'A GOVERNMENT." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All amounts are included in the March 31, 2013 audited consolidated financial statements of Nisga'a Lisims Government or have been calculated from those financial statements. The financial statements are available to all Nisga'a citizens by appointment at the Nisga'a Lisims Government office or can be downloaded from the Nisga'a Nation website.

	2013	2012
REVENUES		
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	**$ 58,015,007**	$ 56,058,157
Investment Income	**26,016,426**	7,810,413
Other revenues	**9,022,338**	21,215,574
Tax revenue	**4,417,714**	1,744,337
Interest income on Final Agreement	**2,316,494**	3,332,481
	99,787,979	90,160,962
Operating expenses	**24,621,236**	22,944,193
Transfers and operating grants		
Nisga'a Village Governments	**24,220,500**	27,319,040
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	**16,034,796**	15,122,928
Nisga'a School Board #92	**7,235,707**	7,085,514
Nisga'a Urban Locals	**2,930,283**	2,445,287
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	**845,673**	918,685
	51,266,959	52,891,454
	75,888,195	75,835,647
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	**23,899,784**	14,325,315
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	**201,169,894**	186,844,579
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	**225,069,678**	201,169,894
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and other current assets	**$ 472,361**	$ 281,693
Other long-term receivables	**3,681,650**	4,735,687
Nisga'a Final Agreement receivable	**43,898,550**	64,219,885
Capital Finance Commission receivable	**7,229,268**	10,843,902
Designated cash	**20,703,509**	18,981,739
Designated trust funds	**184,361,776**	148,579,306
Investments in other entities	**3,004,564**	2,578,772
	263,351,678	250,220,984
LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness and other current liabilities	**9,668,126**	9,405,401
Due to other entities	**2,468,202**	2,559,017
Capital Finance Commission deferred revenue	**27,511,889**	29,562,209
Treaty debt payable	**19,327,438**	28,515,225
Long-term debt	**6,711,461**	5,105,139
	65,687,116	75,146,991
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	**197,664,562**	175,073,993
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets	**26,942,400**	26,022,797
Other non-financial assets	**462,716**	73,104
	27,405,116	26,095,901
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	**225,069,678**	201,169,894

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